

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of Currently Approved Information Collection Regulations Governing the Financing of Commercial Sales of Agricultural Commodities

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) intention to request a revision to a currently approved information collection under the Pub. L. 480, title I program based on a final rule published at 60 FR 62702 on December 7, 1995.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 26, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Connie B. Delaplane, Director, Public Law 480 Operations Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1033; telephone (202) 720-3664.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Regulations—Financing Commercial Sales of Agricultural Commodities under Title I, P.L. 480.

OMB Number: 0551-0005.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Minor revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended, (Pub. L. 480) authorizes the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to finance the sale

and exportation of agricultural commodities on concessional credit terms. 7 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.* Suppliers of commodities and ocean transportation must retain records for three years and report payments to representatives of importing countries. Prospective commodity suppliers must provide information for the Department to determine eligibility. Commodity suppliers must report details of sales for price approval. Shipping agents nominated by importing countries must submit information to allow identification of possible conflicts of interest.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for these collections of information in the regulations prior to this amendment was estimated at eight hours per response for suppliers of commodities and ocean transportation (records retention and reporting payments); three hours per response for prospective commodity suppliers; 15 minutes per response for commodity suppliers reporting sales; and 1¼ hours per response for shipping agents which are nominated by importing countries.

The changes contained in the final rule are expected to have a quantifiable increase on only one of these estimates. Suppliers of commodities and ocean transportation will be required to report any payment "delivered to" a representative of the importer or importing country as well as payments "to" such representatives. (§ 17.12). Suppliers submitted only four reports for FY 1994, with an estimated burden of 1 hour for a report which contained information on a payment and 15 minutes for a negative report. If the number of positive reports tripled as a result of this final rule, the total reporting burden would increase from 1¾ hours to 12 hours.

Little or no burden increase is expected for the other two modifications to information collection requirements contained in the final rule. Suppliers of ocean transportation will, if requested, have to furnish to CCC copies of related discharge contracts when they are financed by CCC. (§ 17.12.) Such contracts are available to the supplier as a routine part of the transaction, and CCC will request them only when necessary to clarify the terms of the contract. Shipping agents nominated by importing countries must slightly expand the programs and services

referenced in their conflict of interest certification and must also certify that no kickbacks or illegal benefits were paid in connection with their selection. [§ 17.5(c) (7) and (8).] Given the widespread use of word processing, this should take only a few minutes to change in the master document which will then become a part of every subsequent submission by the agent.

Respondents: Suppliers of commodities and ocean transportation; prospective commodity suppliers; shipping agents.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 103.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 528 hours (existing); new burden estimate is 538¼ hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Pamela Hopkins, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 720-6713.

Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Connie B. Delaplane, Director, P.L. 480 Operations Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1033; telephone (202) 720-3664.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C. on December 18, 1995.

Christopher E. Goldthwait,
*General Sales Manager, Foreign Agricultural
Service and Vice President, Commodity Credit
Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 95-31226 Filed 12-22-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

Forest Service

Western Washington Cascades Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC) Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Cascades PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on January 23, 1996 at the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Headquarters, 21905 64th Avenue West, in Mountlake Terrace, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until about 4:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Discussion with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the process and standards for developing Habitat Conservation Plans; (2) review and discussion of the Snoqualmie Pass Adaptive Management Area Draft Environmental Impact Statement with members of the AMA team; (3) overview of the Wild Salmonid Policy recently released by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; (4) update on issues related to Section 2001 of Public Law 103-327 (Rescission Bill); (5) report by the River Basin Study Group; (6) Access and Travel Management subcommittee report; (7) other topics as appropriate; and (8) open public forum. All Western Washington Cascades Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Chris Hansen-Murray, Province Liaison, USDA, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 21905 64th Avenue West, Mountlake Terrace, Washington 98043, 206-744-3276.

Dated: December 18, 1995.

Daniel T. Harkenrider,
Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 95-31244 Filed 12-22-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Title to Forest Lieu Selection Lands

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the Agency's Nationally Significant lands

List which identifies lands to be retained by the United States as part of the national Forest System; and the Final List Of Lands Quitclaimed By The United States in compliance with steps three and four of a 5-step procedure imposed by the Act of July 2, 1993. Following publication of this notice the Agency will file in the appropriate county office a disclaimer of interest for the parcels on the Final List Of Lands Quitclaimed By The United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This notice is effective December 26, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: J. Kenneth Myers, Lands Staff, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090, (202) 205-1248.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Certain provisions of the Act of June 4, 1897 (16 U.S.C. 473-475; the Organic Administration Act), which provided for the management of the forest reserves of the United States, included a provision known as "forest lieu selection." Under that provision, persons who had patented public land, or a claimant to such land, which fell within a proclaimed forest reserve boundary in the western United States, were authorized to convey or relinquish their land or claim to such land ("base land") to the United States and to select an equal acreage of vacant public land open to settlement ("in-lieu land"). The forest reserves were renamed as national forests in 1905.

In 1905, Congress repealed the forest lieu selection authorization, but protected previously made contracts and claims. This protection preserved the rights of those persons who had relinquished their inholdings by providing a deed to the United States, but who had not yet realized or exercised their selection rights under the forest lieu selection provision of the Organic Administration Act. In legislation enacted in 1922 and 1930, Congress provided further opportunity to resolve remaining claims by authorizing reconveyance of the base lands back to the former owners or their heirs or assigns. Consequently, most of the claims for in-lieu land were resolved.

However, Congress became concerned about allegations of abuse of the provisions of the 1930 Act, which by the 1950's was leading to reconveyance of valuable national forest and national park lands. In 1960, legislation was enacted to provide for compensation to people who had not received appropriate relief under the prior acts.

Section 4 of the 1960 Act repealed the 1930 Act and sought to close all unresolved claims under the 1897 Act. The legislation provided that any base lands for which payment was made, or any base lands for which payment might have been made but for which no demand was made, would become a part of appropriate national forest, national park, or other Federal area. However, no payments were made under the 1960 Act, continuing the unresolved title status of some of the base lands.

Thus, most of these base lands with questionable title have continued to be considered part of the national forests, although some have been continuously occupied by private parties since before 1960. Other base lands have been the subject of court decisions, raising further questions about the United States' claim of title.

In the mid-1980's, the Forest Service, pursuant to a request from Congress, compiled a list of grantors and base lands relinquished to the United States under the 1897 Act provision for which selection or other rights were not realized or exercised. This list was submitted to the 98th Congress and was used by it and subsequent Congresses for deliberations on legislation eventually enacted as the Act of July 2, 1993.

The 1993 Act was enacted to finally resolve the title status of the remaining base lands, using a 5-step procedure to either retain or quitclaim all right, title, and interest in and to the base lands. The first step in the 5-step procedure, which required the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Forest Service, to compile and publish an initial list of base lands in the Federal Register, was completed by the Agency on December 30, 1993 (58 FR 69321). Copies of relevant portions of the December 30, 1993, Federal Register were distributed to interested parties and appropriate federal, state, and county offices. The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, also published an initial list of base lands located on public lands administered by that Agency on December 30, 1993.

Step two, which provided a 180-day comment period ending July 2, 1994, allowed persons to submit information on parcels not included in the Initial List but believed to meet the conditions set forth in the Act for review and possible addition to the Initial List. Numerous comments were submitted by individuals or their representatives informing the Agency of their claim or interest in parcels already included on the Initial List and requesting the